

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed March 13, 2006. Claims 1-13 remain pending in the application, and claims 1, 2 and 9-11 stand rejected. Claims 3-8, 12 and 13 were indicated to contain allowable subject matter. Claims 3 and 12 have been canceled herein, and claims 1, 4-7, 10, 11 and 13 have been amended. Applicants assert that the amended claims are in complete condition for allowance and respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

Claims Rejected Under 35 C.F.R. §102

Claims 1, 2, 9, 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,325,853 to Hogan et al. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claims 3 and 12, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants assert that claims 1 and 10 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request that the rejections of claims 1 and 10 be withdrawn.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1, and claim 11 depends from claim 10. Claim 11 has been amended to correspond to the language of amended claim 10. Accordingly, Applicants assert that claims 2 and 11 are in condition for allowance for the reasons stated above for claims 1 and 10, and respectfully request that the rejections of these claims be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 9 because Hogan '853 fails to teach each and every element of claim 9. Specifically, claim 9 is directed to an apparatus for dispensing liquid material and includes a nozzle comprising "first and second liquid discharge outlets for discharging the liquid material, said air discharge

passage having an air outlet positioned between said first and second liquid discharge outlets." In contrast, Hogan '853 is directed to an apparatus for applying liquid material with a spray nozzle, and discloses a single liquid discharge outlet (e.g., liquid outlet 90) surrounded by a plurality of air outlets (e.g., air outlet 105). There is no teaching or suggestion in Hogan '853 of a nozzle having first and second liquid discharge outlets, and an air discharge outlet positioned between the first and second liquid discharge outlets, as required by claim 9. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 9 over Hogan '853 be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-8, 12 and 13 were objected to for depending from rejected base claims, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants thank the Examiner for recognizing the allowable subject matter of these claims. Claims 1 and 10 were amended to include the allowable subject matter of claims 3 and 12, as discussed above. Claims 3 and 12 have been canceled accordingly.

Claims 4-6 have been amended so that each of claims 2-8 depends from claim 1, and claim 13 has been amended to depend from claim 10. Applicants therefore assert that claims 2-8, and 13 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the objections to claims 2-8, and 13 be withdrawn.

Claim 7 has been amended to recite, "said air valve positioned between the source of pressurized air and said nozzle." Support for this amendment to claim 7 can be found with reference to the Application at paragraph 0020 and FIG. 1. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims and the remarks set forth herein, Applicants believe this case is in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes any issue requires further discussion, the Examiner is respectfully asked to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the matter may be promptly resolved. The Examiner's prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

Applicants do not believe that any fee is due in connection with this submission. However, if any fees are necessary to complete this communication, the Commissioner may consider this to be a request for such and charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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